B. Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-32 (Cancelled)

Claim 33. (New): Method for the preparation of a chromium-free catalyst comprising Cu and at least one second metal in metallic or oxidic form, comprising the steps of:

a) preparing a final solution comprising ions of Cu and of at least one second metal, said final solution additionally comprising ions of a complexing agent and having a pH of above 5;

b) contacting said final solution with inert carrier to form a final solution/carrier combination;

c) optionally, drying the final solution/carrier combination;

d) calcining the final solution/carrier combination obtained in step c) or d) to yield Cu and the at least one second metal in oxidic form; and

e) reducing at least part of the thus obtained oxidic Cu on the carrier.

Claim 34. (New): Method according to claim 33, step a) comprising the step of preparing said final solution by combining at least a first solution comprising ions of Cu with at least a second solution comprising ions of at least one second metal.

Claim 35. (New): Method according to claim 34, wherein the first and second solutions both comprise ions of the complexing agent in a similar concentration.

Claim 36. (New): Method according to claim 33, wherein both the first solution and the second solution have a pH of above 5.

Claim 37. (New): Method according to claim 36, wherein the first and the second solution have a similar pH.

Claim 38. (New): Method according to claim 33, wherein said chromium-free catalyst further comprises at least one third metal.

Claim 39. (New): Method according to claim 33, wherein the pH of the final solution is above 6.

Claim 40. (New): Method according to claim 33, wherein the concentration of Cu ions in the final solution is in the range of 0.001-0.3, more preferably of 0.005-0.15 g Cu/mL.

Claim 41. (New): Method according to claim 33, wherein the amount of Cu ions in the final solution is such that a catalyst is obtained comprising 1-50 %wt, more preferably 10 to 30 %wt, and most preferably 15 - 25 %wt Cu.

Claim 42. (New): Method according to claim 33, wherein the concentration of ions of the complexing agent in the final solution is in the range of 0.001-1.5, more preferably of 0.15-0.5 g/mL.

Claim 43. (New): Method according to claim 33, wherein the amount of ions of the complexing agent in the final solution is such that the molar ratio of metal to complexing agent is in the range of 0.1 to 5, more preferably 0.5 to 2, and most preferably 0.75-1.25.

Claim 44. (New): Method according to claim 33, wherein the concentration of ions of the at least one second metal in the final solution is in the range of 0.001-0.3, preferably in the range of 0.005-0.15 g/mL.

Claim 45. (New): Method according to claim 33, wherein the amount of ions of the at least one second metal in the final solution is such that catalyst is obtained with an atomic ratio of Cu to the at least one second metal in the range of 0.01-10, more preferably in the range of 0.1-5, and most preferably in the range of 0.3-3.0.

Claim 46. (New): Method according to claim 38, wherein the concentration of ions of the at least one third metal in the final solution is in the range of 0.0001-0.03, preferably in the range of 0.0005-0.015 g/mL.

Claim 47. (New): Method according to claim 38, wherein the amount of the at least one third metal is such that catalyst is obtained with an atomic ratio of the at least one third metal to Cu in the range of 0.001-0.05, more preferably in the range of 0.001-0.01.

Claim 48. (New): Method according to claim 33, comprising an additional step g) of pulverising the obtained catalyst.

Claim 49. (New): Method according to claim 33, wherein the at least one second metal is chosen from one or more of Fe, Zn, Co, Ni, or a combination thereof.

Claim 50. (New): Method according to claim 38, wherein the at least one third metal is chosen from one or more of Pd, Ru, Pt, Rh, or a combination of two or more thereof.

Claim 51. (New): Method according to claim 33, wherein the inert carrier is chosen from alumina, silica, silica-alumina, titania, magnesia, zirconia, zinc oxide, or any combination thereof.

Claim 52. (New): Method according to claim 33, wherein the inert carrier is present in an amount of 0-95 %wt, more preferably about 50–90 %wt, most preferably 70-85 %wt.

Claim 53. (New): Chromium-free catalyst comprising Cu and at least one second metal obtainable by a method to claim 33.

Claim 54. (New): Chromium-free catalyst according to claim 53, said catalyst comprising at least 5 %wt Cu and having an atomic ratio of Cu to the at least one second metal of 0.1-10.

Claim 55. (New): Chromium-free Cu-Zn catalyst supported on silica, zirconia, or magnesia, comprising 5-50 %wt, preferably 10-30 %wt (Cu + Zn) and having a Cu to Zn ratio of 0.1-10 at/at, preferably 0.5-5 at/at, more preferably 1-4 at/at.

Claim 56. (New): Chromium-free Cu-Zn catalyst according to claim 55, further comprising as at least one second metal Co or Ni, or a combination thereof.

Claim 57. (New): Chromium-free Cu-Zn catalyst according to claim 55, further comprising at least one third metal chosen from Rh, Ru, Pd and Pt, or combinations of two or more thereof.

Claim 58. (New): Chromium-free Cu-Zn catalyst according to claim 57 having a ratio of (Cu + Zn) to the at least one third metal of 0.0001-0.5 at/at, preferably of 0.001-0.01 at/at.

Claim 59. (New): Chromium-free Cu-Fe catalyst supported on silica, zirconia, or magnesia, comprising 5-50 %wt, preferably 10-30 %wt (Cu + Fe) and having a Cu to Fe ratio of 0.1-10 at/at, preferably 0.5-5 at/at, more preferably 1-4 at/at.

Claim 60. (New): Chromium-free Cu-Fe catalyst according to claim 59, further comprising as at least one second metal Co or Ni, or a combination thereof.

Claim 61. (New): Chromium-free Cu-Fe catalyst according to claim 59, further comprising at least one third metal chosen from Rh, Ru, Pd and Pt, or combinations of two or more thereof.

Claim 62. (New): Chromium-free Cu-Fe catalyst according to claim 59 having a ratio of (Cu + Fe) to the at least one third metal of 0.0001-0.5 at/at, preferably of 0.001-0.01 at/at.

Claim 63. (New): Use of chromium-free catalyst according to claim 59 for the hydrogenation of fatty acids, fatty esters, esters and diesters to fatty alcohols, alcohols and dialcohols, respectively.